

## IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as shown.

[0013] Figure 1 shows the mechanical operation of the invention illustrating the stringer in the stowed and down positions, and Figures 1a and 1b show front and side views respective, Figure 1b showing the stringer in the down position;

[0014] Figure [[2]] --2c-- shows the invention attached to a set of collapsible stairs;

[0015] Figures 2a and 2b show detailed views of the mechanism illustrated in Figure [[2]]--2c--, shown in the extended ("down") and stowed positions, respectively; and

[0016] Figures 3a and 3b show alternative views of the invention as illustrated in Figure [[2]]--2c--.

[0019] Referring to Figure 1 Figures 1, 1a, and 1b, it can be seen that the handrail mechanism (1) is attached to the stair carriage (2) with an outer stringer (3) and inner stringer (3a) located to the carriage by a pivot pin (4). The stanchion is located between the inner and outer stringer (3), (3a) by the stanchion pin (5).

[0022] Figure [[2]] --2c-- shows the handrail mechanism attached to a set of collapsible stairs to illustrate the mechanism in relation to the stairs. The parts being the latching mechanism (1), stringers (3) and (3a), stanchions (6) and (6a),

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handrail (11), step carriage assembly (2), treads (12), right hand stringer (13), lift bar for collapsible stairs (14).